

# *Ex-CBI Roundup*

— CHINA-BURMA-INDIA —



JULY  
1959





LIAISON group uses civilian porters to carry supplies for them from Ta Ho Wang to Kuyung, China, since it was impossible for pack mules to get through. This U. S. Army photo was taken in September 1944.

# EX-CBI ROUNDUP

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA

Vol. 13, No. 7

July, 1959

Ex-CBI ROUNDUP, established 1946, is a reminiscing magazine published monthly except AUGUST and SEPTEMBER at Laurens, Iowa, by and for former members of U. S. Units stationed in the China-Burma-India Theatre during World War II. Ex-CBI Roundup is the official publication of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association.

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SECOND CLASS MAIL PRIVILEGES AUTHORIZED at the Post Office at Laurens, Iowa, under act of March 3, 1879.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$3.00 per Year	Foreign: \$4.00 per Year
\$5.50 Two Years	\$7.00 Two Years

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**Ex-CBI Roundup**

P. O. Box 188

Laurens, Iowa

## Letter FROM The Editors . . .

- **Don't forget**, this is your last issue of Roundup until October . . . we do not publish issues for either August or September. We hope, however, that you will continue to send us material during the summer months that can be used in later issues.

- **Cover photo** is of the operations and control tower at Bhamo, Burma, and is undoubtedly a familiar sight to those who served in that area. U. S. Army photo.

- **All reports** received thus far indicate the 12th annual CBI Reunion at the new Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia will be another outstanding event. These reunions seem to get bigger and better! If you've been thinking about attending one but just haven't made it, this is the year! See you in Philadelphia.

- **One of our long-standing subscribers** recently asked why we no longer publish unit histories as we did a few years ago. The answer is not that we have exhausted the supply of available material, but rather that we no longer have access to histories from the Department of the Army. Dozens of unit histories are in the hands of CBI-ers, who received them at war's end from their outfits. If you possess such a history of your organization, Roundup would appreciate the loan of it for such time as required to make a copy. Illustrations for unit histories are still available in limited number from the U. S. if we receive the history in advance. Next time you run across your own outfit's history, remember to send it off to Roundup.

- **In case** you move during the summer, BE SURE to send Roundup your new address. Then you won't miss any issues.



## Wants Pictures

- Was a Hump pilot based at Chabua, India, during all of 1944 and part of 1945. Had a job as base check pilot, etc., while at Chabua. Can you give me a commercial source of Hump pictures? Would like to buy a few if they are available.

J. D. HIGGINS JR.  
4016 Carolyn Road  
Fort Worth, Tex.

*Can anyone tell Ex-CBIer Higgins where to buy Hump pictures?—Eds.*

## Served in Calcutta

- Was pharmacist with 112th Station Hospital, 263rd General and 142nd General, all in Calcutta.

JOHN W. BOLEN,  
Henderson, Tenn.



VARIOUS ITEMS brought from CBI went into this lamp made up for Dorothea M. Dent of Arcadia, Calif. The base is a drum with an etched brass plate which is a part of a liqueur set, the cups of which are on this plate. The decanter is on the table beside the lamp. Stem of the lamp is an etched brass flower vase.



ORIGINAL post office at Myitkyina, better known to many as APO 218. Photo by Robert L. Hand.

**Progress Report**

• In the April issue of Roundup, which has just dropped anchor in the bay, Steven A. Orlowski has a letter asking for a progress report on the Yogi Temple, near Agra, which he says was begun 35 years ago. It so happens that I visited the temple just before Christmas last year, and thus I am able to report that, although work has never been interrupted, it has gone on so slowly that one wonders if there has been any noticeable progress at all. Anything like haste is frowned upon. In fact, I was told that it is hoped that the temple will never be absolutely and completely finished, in order to symbolize the "Eternity" of God. Proper name of the Temple is "Radaswami Temple." It is located in Dayalbagh, a section of Agra. The followers of Radaswami are a sect of Hinduism, which has ramifications throughout the North of India. Most of the devotees, so it appears, are rich Marwaris. Radaswami is supposed to

have been some kind of a reformer who lived around the end of the last century. The Temple is to be his "mausoleum." I was told that the Temple was started not 35 years ago, as Mr. Orlowski stated, but 55 years ago, i. e. about 1905. The aim in building on such a magnificent scale,

I am told, is to outdo the Taj Mahal. Judging from what is already finished, it surely will. Money seems to be no consideration. Crores of rupees have already been spent on it, and many more crores will be spent before it is completed, if it ever is completed to the last detail. The plans call for a most complicated and elaborate structure, three or four stories high, with a wealth and labyrinth of halls, shrines, turrets, staircases, pillars; and the richest materials in marble and precious stones are being employed. The carving in marble is being done right on the premises, and it is really something to see. Simply marvelous! For sheer beauty and richness and perfection of detail, this Radaswami Temple will perhaps be unequalled among buildings of its kind.

R. A. WELFLE, S. J.  
Patna (Bihar), India

**Air Commando Pilot**

• Served as a liaison pilot in the 1st Air Commando.  
LEO J. CARROLL,  
Bloomington, Ill.



GOING HOME American troops are shown boarding a ship at Shanghai in 1945. Photo by Clinton Staples.



POPULAR PLACE on Karachi Air Base was the Area C theatre. Photo by William F. Moerk.

**Myitkyina Missionary**

• In reference to the letter by Donald Hauser of Pittsburgh, Pa., which was printed on page 20 of the June issue, enclosed you will find a letter sent out by the General Baptist Conference pertaining to the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Tegenfeldt. In the letter of Mr. Hauser, he asked whatever became of the American missionary at Myitkyina who wrote several articles for Roundup a year or so ago. This is the missionary whom he is speaking of. My wife and I enjoy very much reading Ex-CBI Roundup . . . it brings back many memories of the 27 months I spent in India near Ledo, Assam.

ROY H. PEARSON, JR.,  
Galesburg, Ill.

The letter referred to was written by the Rev. Mr. Tegenfeldt. He is still at the American Baptist Mission at Myitkyina, and has recently helped with teaching at the annual Bible conferences at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Kukai. He also recently visited Shingbwii Yang, "at the far corner of the Hukawng Valley just at the foot of the Naga Hills," where a new school has been built for the missionary work the Kachins are doing among the Nagas. Mrs. Tegen-

feldt has been at Vellore, South India, for surgery to enable her to recover from tuberculosis, and the five children have also been in India since January—Eds.

**Seeks Information**

• Anyone with information about John Thomas (Jack) Roberts, 0675516, 12th Bomber Sq. 81. Plane reported crashed April 14, 1944, at Imphal, India. I am a broken-hearted mother and any report will be greatly appreciated.

MRS. R. B. ROBERTS,  
P. O. Box 725  
Harlingen, Texas

**Karaya Road**

• Page 23, June issue, picture of cow patties. Does caption really mean that a CBI wallah went to Karaya Road to take pictures of cow patties? If so, add this one to your list of freak things that happened in India!

WM. R. ZIEGLER,  
Houma, La.



BASHAS at Houston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, and elsewhere have recently welcomed Gregory "Pappy" Boyington who is on an autographing tour promoting his book, "Baa Baa Black Sheep." Here he is shown (right) receiving certificate of "distinguished member" of the Washington State Dhobi Wallah Basha, Seattle, from Allister G. Brott, adjutant, and Leslie Bartlett, chaplain. The book is now in its 14th printing, a best seller for more than nine months. Boyington recently sold motion picture rights to Columbia Pictures for \$250,000. (Photo by Henry MacLeod, Seattle Times).

A Good Time for Everyone at Philadelphia

# 12th Annual CBI Reunion

CBI veterans and their families from all parts of the country are making plans to attend the 12th annual CBI Reunion on August 5, 6, 7 and 8 at the new Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa.

A record crowd is expected for the big event.

The city of Philadelphia will open its doors to the visitors, a program of entertainment has been prepared by the host CBIers of the Delaware Valley Basha, and three business sessions are scheduled for members of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association. There will be a full program from the cocktail party and concert Wednesday night through the Commander's Banquet which will officially close the reunion Saturday night.

Registration has been established as \$18.50 for adults and \$9 for children. Special Sheraton Hotel rates for the reunion are \$8 for single rooms, \$12 for double rooms and \$3 for rollaway beds. Hotel reservations should be made by contacting Lloyd B. Carswell, General Manager, Sheraton Hotel, 1725 Pennsylvania Boulevard, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Among the well-known CBIers expected to be present for the reunion in Phil-



RESERVATIONS for the 1959 Reunion may be made by writing the Sheraton Hotel (above), where the event will be held.

adelphia is Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, whose new book, "Baa Baa Black Sheep," is soon to be filmed by Columbia Pictures.

Entertainment for the reunion on Thursday includes a trip to the zoo for women and children; tour and picnic for everyone at historic Valley Forge Park; and CBIVA Night at the Boyd Theatre, "Cinerama" spectacular. On Friday will be a tour of the Philadelphia Navy Yard; Past Commander's Luncheon for all; teen-age hop on Dick Clark's TV Band Stand (in Puja costumes); Pre-Puja Night dutch treat cocktail party; Puja Parade to the Burning Ghat; and the Puja Ball in the Main Ballroom of the Sheraton. On Saturday there will be a trip to the Franklin Institute for women and children; city tour by Grey Lines; veterans' memorial service at Independence Hall; children's banquet; and the Commander's Banquet and Dance.

Hospitality rooms, of course, will be in operation each night.

Business meetings include the opening session at 10 a.m. Thursday at which the convention will be called to order by Boyd Rose, Delaware Valley Basha Commander; another at 3 p.m. Friday; and the final session at 10 a.m. Saturday. The Thursday session will include introductions and welcoming addresses, reports, and committee appointments by National Commander Robert Doucette. Both old and new business will be taken



BIRDSEYE VIEW of the Penn Center Development, which CBI veterans and their families will have an opportunity to visit during the 1959 CBI Reunion in Philadelphia.

up on Friday, and the meeting on Saturday will include reports of committees and election of national officers.

The Delaware Valley Basha has arranged for special entertainment at various times during the reunion. Among the entertainers will be Howard Klein, known as America's foremost hypnotist. Other headliners are included.

Baby sitters will be available at the hotel, and CBIers are invited to make this a family event.

Many points of interest may be seen in historic Philadelphia during the reunion. Among them are the famous buildings on Independence Square, the first bank in the United States, the Bishop White House, the Dilworth-Todd Moylan House, sites of City Tavern and Franklin's Home, fabulous Penn Center, the U. S. Mint, etc. Philadelphia can certainly be a family adventure.

Every member of the family will thrill to see the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall, stately old Christ Church, Colonial and Victorian Center city streets, and the quaint antique shops along Pine Street's famous "Antique Row."

If you haven't already decided to go, make plans NOW to be in Philadelphia for the 12th Annual CBI Reunion.



A SYMBOL of freedom is the Liberty Bell, which may be seen by CBIers who visit Independence Hall.

## Hooghly's Imambarah Bell Heard 10 Miles

*From the Calcutta Statesman*

Going up the Hooghly about 30 miles from Calcutta, one is likely to hear the sound of bells at a distance. The sound comes from a famous landmark on the riverside, the Hooghly Imambarah.

Several years ago at least one of the three bells of the imambarah (dwelling of the descendant of the Prophet) could be heard ten or more miles away. Said to weigh about 80 maunds, it rings every hour.

The bells are by no means the imambarah's only distinctive feature. The massive walls, the chandeliers in the prayer hall with separate accommodation for men and women, the throne with silver coating, the spacious bathroom in which moonlight is reflected, the Chinese red fishes in the aquarium, the sun dial on the riverbank and the tower clock are bound to impress any visitor. On some walls are inscribed in Arabic the sayings of the Quran.

A bachelor, Haji Mohammad Mohsin, dedicated in 1806 all his property to God for the people's welfare. The Imambarah was planned and executed when a num-

ber of years after Mohsin's death (1812) Moulvi Syed Karamat Ali Sahib was appointed to look after the property.

To ensure the building's beauty the best possible materials, it is stated, were brought from different places—the tower clock came from London, the iron railings from Germany, the chandeliers from Belgium and the wooden beams from Nepal.

The building does not appear to have been repaired or whitewashed for a long time. The plaster has fallen off many of its walls. The Unani charitable dispensary and the library are closed. A few years ago the library's collection of valuable books and manuscripts was handed over to the National Library, Calcutta, at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's suggestion.

The main difficulty of the Imambarah seems to be the loss of revenue resulting from partition. Its property was mainly in Khulna and Jessore Districts, now parts of Pakistan. It is said that before partition the Collector of Khulna remitted Rs 60,000 annually to the Collector of Hooghly from the property's income for disbursement under instructions from the Board of Revenue.

The annual income of the Imambarah from its property in West Bengal is stated to be between Rs 27,000 and Rs 30,000.

# On the Burma-Siam Railway

A chapter from the book, "The Knights of Bushido," by Lord Russell of Liverpool, published 1958 by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York.

Early in 1942 Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo decided that a railway should be built across part of Siam and Burma to link up the two lines already in existence from Rangoon to Ye, in Tenasserim, and from Singapore to Bangkok. The distance between them was about two hundred and fifty miles.

The proposed new railroad was purely strategic, as it was to shorten the line of communication between the Japanese Armies in India and Burma and their rear, and prisoners of war, therefore, should not have been employed on its construction.

Work on the railway was to have been started in June but was not, in fact, begun until November 1942. The Japanese engineers, who were advising Imperial General Headquarters, considered that the work would take five or six years to complete. The military situation could not, of course, admit of such a long delay, and orders were given that the railway must be completed in eighteen months.

Responsibility for carrying out this project was placed upon the Japanese Southern Army, under the command of Field-Marshal Terauchi. A large number of coolies had been recruited as a labour force, but the Field-Marshal's advisers considered that this was insufficient and prevailed on him to suggest to Imperial General Headquarters that Allied prisoners of war should also be used.

Tojo agreed to this proposal, and two groups of prisoners were sent from Singapore, their transfer beginning in August. The first, known as "A" Force, was sent by sea. The second group, which consisted of "F" and "H" Forces, went by rail from Singapore to Bangpong whence they were made to march to the various camps along the projected line where they were to be stationed during the period of construction.

Before they left Singapore they had been told by the Japanese General, who was in charge of the prisoners of war administration, that they were being sent to rest camps up in the mountains. This step was being taken, he said, because the food situation there was better and there would, consequently, soon be an improvement in the health of those who,

Copyright, 1958, by Lord Russell of Liverpool

due to the lack of food and the insanitary conditions in Singapore, were suffering from the effects of malnutrition. It was for this reason, therefore, that the sick were to be moved up with the fit prisoners.

They were all crowded into goods trucks, sitting cross-legged with no room even to move, let alone lie down, and there they remained for four days and nights, with no food or water for the last twenty-four hours of the journey and prior to that nothing but a thin vegetable stew.

On arrival at Bangpong they had to march two hundred miles in two and a half weeks, a march that would have taxed the health of fit men, as the route lay over very rough jungle tracks in mountainous country, but many of these men were sick, and all were weak and undernourished. Moreover, it was still the monsoon season, and the march had to be completed in fifteen night stages in constant rain and a sea of mud.

Those who were fit had to carry those who were sick, and there were some two thousand who could not walk. Those who became too sick or weak to march at all were often beaten and driven on by the guards like cattle.

Another group of nearly nine hundred prisoners who arrived on the site of the proposed railway in October had come from the well known 'Bicycle Prisoner of War Camp' in Java. They had been transported in a small ship of about 4,000 tons from Batavia to Singapore, where they boarded a much smaller ship, and after a voyage of over fifteen days eventually arrived at Moulmein.

As usual the conditions on the voyage were very poor. When the party left Batavia it was fifteen hundred strong. They were all crammed into one hold in which there were also four tanks. They were unable to lie down and were only allowed on deck for about five minutes each day. They received daily three small bowls of rice but there was no water available. Many developed dysentery and it was a miracle that only one died before the ship reached Singapore.

From Moulmein the party went first to the base camp at Thanbuyazat, and from there marched thirty-five kilometres into the jungle where it remained until April 1943, when it became a mobile unit, and worked on the whole line up to the Burma-Siam border. The senior officer

of the party was Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Williams of the 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion, and after it arrived at Thirty-five Kilometre Camp it came known as 'Williams' Force.'

For the first few months Williams' Force was building the embankment of the line, and the work was not too hard although the food was very poor. Later it became extremely scarce, mostly boiled watery rice and scarcely ever any meat. As there were no vegetables provided the prisoners gathered leaves and cut any green grass that they could find. Starved of all flesh they even had recourse to eating dogs, cats, rats and even the entrails of pigs thrown away by the Japanese whose rations were, at all times, adequate. The prisoners only got the leavings.

The huts in which these prisoners lived had usually been previously occupied by the native coolies and were already in an insanitary condition. They were made of bamboo and atap and were generally sited on low-lying ground. During the rainy season it was normal for there to be at least six inches of mud throughout the entire camp, both outside and inside the huts.

'In one camp,' Lieutenant-Colonel Williams stated in his evidence before the Tokyo Tribunal, 'we spent five months in a very crowded area . . . where for the first three weeks there was no roof on our building. I complained to the Japanese commander about the accommodation and he said that they were equally crowded. In fact, twenty-three officers and twenty-three other ranks of my Force occupied the same space as three Japanese soldiers'.

Owing to the deterioration of the Japanese military situation early in 1943, the need for a supply line to their forces in Burma became more urgent, and an order came from Tokyo insisting that the railway must be completed by August of that year. This decision was referred to in a "Report on Employment of War Prisoners on Siam-Burma Railway Construction" prepared by the Japanese Government itself:

When counter-attacks by the British Indian Army and the bombing of our communications rapidly became fiercer, and the situation in this area considerably worsened after the rainy season of 1942 our sea transportation from Malaya to Burma gradually became more difficult . . . It became evident that if things were left as they were till the end of the next rainy season communication with Burma would be almost entirely interrupted . . . as, however, the rainy season of 1943 set in earlier than usual the conditions in the jungle worsened from

April onwards and the victims of the work gradually increased. Confronted with these bad conditions, Imperial General Headquarters at last postponed the target date for completion of the railway for two months.

During this last period, May to October 1943, which was known by the code name of 'Speedo,' the conditions were at their worst for all the prisoners of war employed on the project. It rained almost incessantly and Williams' Force moved from camp to camp at frequent intervals. The men had very little clothing and were hardly ever dry. They were worked like slaves, leaving camp about five or six in the morning, and often not returning before midnight. All the time they were getting weaker and weaker.

Between April and October over two hundred of them died. Each morning some men would be found dead in their huts. To spur the prisoners on, so that the railway would be finished on time, the Japanese guards 'belted the men hourly with bamboos and rifle butts, or they kicked them. I have seen them use a five pound hammer and anything they could lay their hands on. One man had his jaw broken with a blow from a rifle butt because he bent a spike while driving it into the rail.'

There was only one issue of some two hundred and fifty blankets for the whole force of eight hundred and eighty-four. The majority of men were without blankets. At one time a few rice sacks were issued to the prisoners to keep them warm but, shortly afterwards, they were withdrawn as they were wanted for rice.

In May 1943 Williams' Force moved to Sixty Kilometre Camp. As it arrived a number of dead bodies were being carried away. It was later discovered that they had recently died from cholera. The camp had previously been a coolie camp and was covered with filth. So dirty and insanitary was it that Lieutenant-Colonel Williams ordered his men to burn the bamboo sleeping slats, to tear down the sides of the huts and burn them and to scrape about an inch of soil from the whole surface of the camp. Shortly afterwards several prisoners were taken ill with cholera and died, for there were no proper medical supplies.

At Eighty Kilometre Camp there was a makeshift hospital for 'No. 5 Group, Prisoner of War Thailand Administration.' Here lay men who were so ill that they were physically incapable of doing any work. They were deposited there to die, for the Japanese told them, 'No work, no food.' When Williams' Force arrived at the camp the death rate was about five a day. His men took them what food they could, and on one occasion killed

two cows belonging to the Japanese camp staff and distributed the meat to the starving invalids under cover of darkness.

Senior Japanese officers frequently visited these camps, but they never appeared to inspect the huts and never questioned any of the prisoners.

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams protested regularly about the conditions, but he was always told that the orders were that the railway must be completed in the shortest possible time and that nothing could be done to improve the prisoners' lot.

One of the witnesses who gave evidence before the Tokyo Tribunal about the conditions on the Burma-Siam railway was Colonel Wild, who worked on the project until November 1943. As he could speak Japanese he acted as liaison officer between the prisoners of war employed on the construction of the railway and the Japanese officers. He visited many of the camps and was able to speak at first hand of the conditions in them. The following is an extract from his evidence.

Q. Substantially was there any difference between the living conditions and treatment of prisoners of war in these various camps?

A. None.

Q. Will you describe one of them as an example?

A. When I entered Songkrai Camp on 3rd August 1943 I went first to a very large hut accommodating about seven hundred men. The hut was of the usual pattern. On each side of an earthen gangway there was a twelve feet wide sleeping platform made of split bamboo.

The roof was inadequately made with an insufficient quantity of palm leaves which let the rain through everywhere. There were no walls, and a stream of water was running down the earthen gangway. The framework of the hut was bamboo tied with creeper. In this hut were seven hundred sick men. They were lying two deep along each side of the hut on the split bamboo platform. Their bodies were touching one another down the whole length of the hut. They were all very thin and practically naked. In the middle of the hut were about a hundred and fifty men suffering from tropical ulcers. These commonly stripped the whole of the flesh from a man's leg from the knee to the ankle. There was an almost overwhelming smell of putrefaction. The only dressings available were banana leaves tied around with puttees, and the only medicine was hot water.

There was another hut further up the hill of similar design in which so-called fit men were kept and one well-roofed and better constructed hut occupied by the Japanese guards.

Q. Was there any bedding supplied?

A. None whatever.

Q. What did they have to cover them from the rain?

A. When we first entered these working camps not one of them was roofed at all for the first few weeks. The monsoon had already broken and during those weeks the men had nothing whatever to cover themselves from the rain except banana leaves.

If he had the strength each man cut a couple of banana leaves and put them over his body.

Q. Was any roofing material ever received?

A. In my own camp, of which I was in command, Lower Niki, we got a lorry load of atap palm which was enough to roof half the hut in which the worst of the sick were lying. In Niki Camp no atap palm was ever received but we got some rotten leaky canvas.

In the other four camps, after a few weeks, enough atap palm was supplied to roof all the huts with about half the amount that was necessary.

Again, this does not apply to the Japanese and Korean guards, who always had a proper roof over them.

Q. By the middle of July 1943, that is ten weeks after you had left Singapore, what was the state of 'F' Force as a whole?

A. We had seventeen hundred deaths by that time, and seven hundred men out of seven thousand were going out to work. Of these seven hundred, we British officers considered that three hundred and fifty should have been lying down sick.

Even when the prisoners returned to camp at night after a gruelling working day of eighteen hours, weary to death, they were allowed no rest or quiet. Every Japanese soldier had to be saluted at all times whenever one was seen. This meant standing up and bowing sometimes a dozen or two dozen times a night. Failure to do this resulted in certain punishment. Sometimes, because one prisoner had failed to salute correctly, a whole hut of men would be dragged outside to stand to attention for a couple of hours.

One Japanese officer, because he disliked the smell of one of the hospital huts close to his guardroom, emptied the hut of all the sick and crowded them into another hut already full to overflowing. One party of fifty sick men, who should have been in bed, were forced

## On The Burma-Siam Railway

to work for three weeks clearing the jungle in front of the commandant's house so that he could obtain a better view of the valley.

Many prisoners of war were executed at the Burma end of the railway in 1942 and 1943. Two groups of Netherlands East Indies officers, who had attempted to escape, were shot in the cemetery of their camp, and a number of Australians were shot for the same reason a few months later.

In April 1943 the commandant of one camp called all the prisoners together one morning and told them that their lives were of no consequence, and that the railway had to be built irrespective of any suffering or deaths. The following extract, therefore, from the Japanese Report already referred to makes strange reading.

We should like to declare that the Japanese troops participated in the joys and sorrows of the POWs and native labourers in the construction work, and they by no means completed, or intended to complete the work only at the sacrifice of POWs.

When they were well enough to work the prisoners were kept at it till they dropped, when they went sick they were starved, but the whole time, sick or well, they were subjected to great brutality. The hours of work varied from twelve to twenty a day with no days off. 8 a.m. till 10 p.m. was a normal day's work. Protests were of no avail.

About the middle of July 1943, when the Japanese were becoming desperate in their efforts to complete the line before the end of the year, the senior officer in one of the camps was summoned by a Japanese officer who told him that as the railway was required for operational purposes it had to be finished by the target date at all costs, irrespective of the number of British and American prisoners who might lose their lives. It was no use, the Japanese officer said, the Allies quoting the Articles of the Geneva Convention for they had themselves contravened them 'by sinking hospital ships and by running down civilian internees with steam rollers.'

The line was to be completed by August, and when this did not happen the Japanese became infuriated and during the last few weeks of its construction, the prisoners on some of the sections had to work from 5:30 a.m. until 2 a.m. on the following day. An account of the programme of work for part of 'F' Force from 13th to 16th September 1943 was given by one of the witnesses at the trial of major war criminals at Tokyo, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Kappe, who

was allowed to refresh his memory from a diary which he kept during his incarceration.

On 13th September I was informed by Lieutenant Fakuda that the men must be prepared to work all through the night, as the railway was only a few kilometres to the north and it was necessary that the line should reach Sonkurai, three kilometres to the south, by the 16th. Owing to the heavy rain, however, the work ceased at 10:30 p.m., the men having been out since 5:30 a.m. On the 14th reveille was at 5:30 a.m. and, despite heavy rain all day and throughout the evening, the prisoners were forced to remain out until 2:30 a.m. on the 15th. Again they were roused at 5:30 a.m., after only three hours' rest, and were worked until midnight, and on the next day, which was the 16th, they continued working from 5:30 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Of the original 3663 prisoners who left Singapore for Siam as members of 'F' Force in April 1943, 1060 failed to return, representing approximately 29 per cent of the Australian contingent. The British lost 59 per cent of their strength and the entire Force lost 44 per cent.

When the survivors returned from the railway after its completion in December their condition was, according to the evidence of one witness who saw their arrival, pitiable. 'They were in a shocking condition, suffering from serious attacks of beri-beri, malaria, tropical ulcers and extreme debility. The loss of weight was simply appalling, averaging about seventy pounds per individual; 80 per cent of them had to be admitted at once to hospital.'

Some reference should be made to the coolie labour employed on the railway construction for they received, if such a thing were possible, even worse treatment. A native labour force was recruited by means of false promises or pressed into service. It consisted of Burmese, Tamils, Javanese, Malaysians and Chinese who numbered about 150,000. At least 60,000 of them died. These coolies were kept in camps along the railway line, and from 1st August 1943 until 31st March 1945 a Japanese unit known as the 19th Ambulance Corps was responsible for the medical care and attention. It was commanded by a Major 'Kudo Batai.' The conduct of the Japanese towards these coolies was characterized by complete indifference to their sufferings and a callous disregard for their lives.

Several hospitals were set up at different places on the railroad, the principal one being at Kanburi where, also, the unit headquarters were located. In

all these so-called hospitals there was inadequate accommodation, and a shortage of food and drinking water. The sick were neglected, if not entirely ignored by the medical staff, and abandoned to die. Each hospital had a 'Death House,' a hut where the sick, both male and female, were left unattended and without any medical comforts. The 'Death House' was nothing but an ante-room to the mortuary. It was the Japanese method of getting rid of useless mouths to feed. If the patients were not taken off by disease, malnutrition finally did away with them.

A member of the Japanese staff at Kanburi told one of his orderlies that he would gain much favour by clearing the 'Death House' quickly. The orderly took the officer at his word, for both living and dead were speedily removed and buried together. Out of 1,200 coolies placed in the 'Death House' at Kanburi Hospital, only ten survived.

Medical supplies which were available and should have been given to patients were deliberately withheld, and some were even bartered by Nishimura, the camp dispenser, for the services of Siamese prostitutes. The coolies were at all times beaten, and were also subjected to other forms of linary offences, upon the express orders of Major Kudo.

They were bound, stripped naked and left out in the sun, sometimes for three successive days. This punishment was occasionally varied by making the victim hold a heavy log or stone above his head. Women and children were also tied up and exposed to the sun for several hours at a time. Many of the coolies of both sexes and of all ages were also subjected to obscene brutalities, which cannot be described here, in order to gratify the perverted sadism of their captors.

The evidence given against the unit commander, Major Kudo, at his trial included many accusations of rape and indecent assault. At his evening drinking parties many young Tamil women were forced to dance naked to please his guests who then raped them. One woman who was outraged in this manner died a few weeks later, and her husband went out of his mind.

Another member of the camp staff at Mezali, named Onodera, dragged a nineteen year old Indian girl from her tent, raped her, and after forcing a number of coolies to rape her also, committed unspeakable outrages upon her with strips of lighted bamboo. According to an eyewitness, who gave evidence at Onodera's trial, the wretched girl became unconscious and died that night.

The coolies were supposed to receive wages for the work. Kudo refused to

pay them, and in the place of money issued them with vouchers which could only be exchanged for goods in the canteen which he himself ran as a private business. The prices were excessive, and the resulting profit, which went into Kudo's pocket, high.

The death rate in these hospitals was very high, and the lowest reliable estimate is 42,000, but not all the coolies working on the railway died of disease or malnutrition.

In February 1944 about twenty-five escaped from Niki Camp and, upon being recaptured, were imprisoned in a hut in the vicinity of Kanburi Hospital. They were then given an injection of some reddish fluid. They all died in agony and showed symptoms consistent with mercurial poisoning. Evidence of this was given at Kudo's trial by the affidavit of Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, who commanded 'L' Force, which was composed of thirty prisoners of war medical officers and two hundred orderlies, sent to Siam to assist Kudo Batai. Six months later a number of Indian prisoners of war, also at Kanburi, suffered a similar fate.

At his trial Tojo told the Tribunal that he instructed the Chief of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau to investigate complaints which had reached him about the conditions in the labour camps along the whole length of the railway.

The investigation was, in fact, made by someone else, Wakamatsu, who was head of the General Affairs Section of the Japanese General Staff. In August Wakamatsu inspected the Burma-Siam railway area and, in due course, made a verbal report to the Chief-of-Staff, General Sugiyama, and the Vice-Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant-General Hata.

The following is an extract from Wakamatsu's evidence:

I visited Rangoon, Bangkok and a portion of the railroad from the Siam end. It was during the rainy season and the work was not progressing satisfactorily. I made this inspection because I had been receiving reports from time to time which showed that the progress of the work was not satisfactory. The reports also contained information that the physical condition of the prisoners of war working on the railway was poor, and that the death rate was very high. I had heard that cholera was epidemic and that caused me considerable worry. I saw the labourers at work on the railroad and noticed many cases of beri-beri and dysentery amongst them. I also inspected the feeding of the prisoners and it was unsatisfactory, the quantity and quality being below the required standard. I orally reported the results of

my inspection to the Chief and Vice-Chief-of-Staff and recommended a two months extension of the deadline for the completion of the railroad . . . Many deaths of prisoners of war resulted from the building of this railway. The causes were epidemic diseases and unfavourable weather.

The construction outfit did not have a proper supply service. There were not enough trucks, and the truck road which was made in April parallel to the permanent way suffered bridge wash-outs, and could not be used for some time. It was intended to be used during the rainy season, but this proved to be difficult and prisoners and other workers had a difficult time as a result. Because there were not enough trucks, it was thought necessary to use more men, and because more men were employed the food situation became more difficult. I recommended to the Commander of the Southern Army that more trucks should be used and fewer men.

The results of Wakamatsu's inspection eventually came to the ears of Tojo. The only action he took was to court-martial one Japanese company commander who was reported to have dealt unfairly with the prisoners of war.

As the Tokyo Tribunal said in its judgment,

. . . the court-martial of one company commander was so insignificant and inadequate as a corrective measure, in view of the general disregard of the laws of war by those in charge of prisoners of war on this project, and the inhumane treatment to which they were subjecting the prisoners, as to amount to condonation of their conduct.

The chief concern of the Japanese Government and the Imperial General Staff was that the railway should be completed in time to use it in resisting the Allied advance in Burma. The cost in lives and suffering mattered nothing. The prisoners of war could be driven like slaves, beaten, tortured and murdered by their Japanese and Korean guards so long as the target date was kept. They could die like flies of disease or malnutrition so long as the work went on.

Out of 46,000 Allied prisoners of war who were employed on this work, 16,000 died, and many thousands more will suffer from the effects of their ill-treatment for the rest of their lives.

So the Imperial General Staff got its railway, but at what a cost of human life and human suffering. Each mile of this 'Railroad of Death' was paid for with the lives of sixty-four Allied prisoners of war, and two hundred and forty coolie slaves.

—THE END

## Howrah Chaos

*From the Calcutta Statesman*

About 120 cases of crime were reported from the Howrah Station area during the first 10 months of 1958. There were 237 cases in 1957, 335 in 1956 and 193 in 1955.

Crime in the station area has always posed a problem for the Government Railway Police. Its seriousness can be gauged from the fact that 100,000 passengers daily come into and go out of the station. According to one estimate about 200,000 people travel without tickets every day, and employees of 35 offices in the station premises add to the congestion.

With its 13 platforms and 22 exit gates, the station, built in 1903 and almost unchanged since, has its own law and order problems. About 1,200 registered porters carry passengers' luggage, about 50,000 in number, almost every day. A large number of dealers bring vegetables, fish and other commodities for the Calcutta market from outside. Different porters are employed for this purpose. Then there

are unlicensed hawkers who enter the station premises the moment police vigil is slackened.

Outside the station, conditions are equally confusing. There is always a dearth of taxis. At present there is a remodelled taxi stand for 75 vehicles, but this is inadequate for the demands of incoming passengers, particularly in the morning when three or four trains arrive almost simultaneously.

On Friday morning I found many passengers waiting outside the station for taxis but none was available at the stand. I was told that several trains had arrived earlier and the taxis had all left with passengers. I saw a constable calling a taxi which had unloaded its passengers at the station; he was trying to help an old woman who had arrived by a train.

The roads outside the station, designed about 50 years ago, can hardly cope with today's fast and heavy traffic. Many traffic jams occur on the station approach roads throughout the day. To add to the confusion, the pandas at the Chandmari ghat on the Ganga, near the station, have to be watched lest they make the ghat their permanent abode with their pots, rugs and charpois.

# Contract Chaplain

BY JAMES F. SMITH, M.M.  
(Written During World War II)

JUST BEFORE Christmas, 1943, the Catholic authorities in Chungking received an S. O. S. from the U. S. Army asking for the services of a priest during the Holy Season. The nomination fell upon me, and I was sent to an advanced airbase for a short term chaplaincy.

At my new post I found that the resident chaplain Fr. Edward Lyons of the Scarboro Missions was preparing an impressive ceremony to be held in a hangar. Between us, and with the very capable help of the Sisters from a nearby hospital, we transformed a makeshift stage into a really beautiful home for the new born King. Christmas Mass was a heart-moving spectacle. Fr. Lyons, assisted by a visiting priest and one of the local Chinese missionaries, sang a solemn high Mass. A number of soldiers formed a choir, and I preached the sermon.

Despite the cold, and the inaccessibility of the hangar, nearly one thousand boys were in attendance at Mass.

As I faced them sitting row on row in the semi-gloom of that immense place I was glad that I had come, that I could be of some little service to these boys whose religion meant so much to them.

The U. S. Army is very careful to see that soldiers are well supplied with chaplains, but never before has the army met the situation which existed in China. Other theatres of war had great numbers of men, each unit accompanied by the Chaplain who came overseas with it. But in China there are relatively few men, scattered across a vast roadless area half the size of the United States. Even if the regular army chaplains spent their entire time traveling they could visit the men only once or twice a year. Our Catholic boys wanted to hear Mass and receive the Sacraments as often as they could; all of them were very vocal on this point and not a few keep the matter continually before the eyes of their superior officers through letters.

The army was completely stumped for a solution. More chaplains could hardly be requested from the United States, as the number of troops did not warrant an increase; yet some of the boys had not heard Mass in months. The commanding general brought his problem to the Catholic authorities in China, and a solution was worked out that went far to clear up the difficulty.

Though but one hundredth of China's population is Catholic, missionaries are

found in every nook and corner of the country. The army had yet to build an airfield that was not somewhere within reach of the lonely missionary and his Chapel. This good Father was usually the soldier's best friend, only too willing to give every spare moment of his time to the assistance and entertainment of his guests. Duties, however, often called him away to the far flung villages of his mission district and at such times he could not be at the disposal of the men in the fighters and bombers who liked to receive the Sacraments before going on dangerous missions.

Priests were needed who could spend all their time at the airbases. The army and the Church in collaboration worked out the answer to this problem—the "contract Chaplain."

The Contract Chaplain is a missionary who has been forced to leave his own mission by the Japanese, and can be spared by his Bishop temporarily for work with the army. He is the complete answer to the army's problem; a priest with years of experience in China, a wide knowledge of the terrain and the customs of the people, and a serene ignorance of army regulations and procedure. Technically he is a civilian working full time for the army. He holds no rank, neither gives nor receives salutes, and enjoys all the privileges of an officer. His uniform differs from other commissioned ratings only in that, instead of having the insignia of his rank on one side of his collar and the Chaplain's cross on the other, he has the cross on both sides. The "double-cross," as the boys laughingly call it, is a deep puzzle to men who had recently arrived in the Theatre.

During the time I was in the army I believe I was asked on the average of once a day just what the two crosses meant. Those men had seen almost everything in the line of army insignia, but this new one had them baffled. All knew we were chaplains, but I suspect the GI's wanted to get us properly indexed so that they would know whether or not they should salute us, while some of the higher officers were making polite inquiries to find out just why we are not saluting them. They all understood our position as soon as we explained things to them, but invariably came back with the question, "Why don't you take out a commission and join the army?" It was much too much bother to tell each man that we were merely loaned to the army by our Bishops, and would be called upon

to return to our missions just as soon as the Japanese left them. That might not be possible if we were sworn in under the oath that binds one for "the duration and six months." Our stock answer became "We're too smart to join up." That always got a laugh and seemed to satisfy everyone.

Life in the army was an exciting change from mission work. Except for the sacred nature of our task it might even be called "Wild and Wooly." We were on the move all the time and the Mass kit seemed to have become an extension of our hands. We had Masses scheduled for every day in the week for the boys whom we could not reach on Sunday. To visit the lonely outposts where they worked we had to do some real frontier style riding—not on the back of a horse, but in a jeep that galloped over the rough country roads as if its ancestors had been bred on the prairie.

Sunday was always our big day. Nine Masses were said at my base and at the outlying posts we visited. Fr. Lyons and I each said three, and we enlisted the help of one of the Fathers from the French mission for the last three. We set up our altar, in the home base at six in the morning, had Mass and sermon, took down the altar and dashed off for the next service miles away. This performance was repeated all through the day until the last Mass at 7:30 in the evening. By that time I was usually a wreck, with a violent antipathy to jeeps of all kinds.

I continually say "we" when speaking of these Masses. That is because Fr. Lyons and I worked as a team. When one was saying Mass, the other heard confessions. That way we always started right on time, and there was not the usual hold up of from twenty minutes to half an hour for confessions which is inexplicable when one priest tries to follow such a closely timed schedule. The boys appreciated this a lot, but the mess sergeants even more, because it did away with stragglers drifting in for chow at odd times and permitted them to get their work finished.

The great difficulty about trying to cover so much ground was that we never had time enough to really know the Catholic boys at the outlying posts, unless they came to us after Mass with some question or difficulty. This problem could only be taken care of by the arrival of regular chaplains, and happily this took place before I left. First came Lt. Col. McNamara, a priest from Providence, R. I., as Theater Chaplain. Then Lt. Col. Kelly, a priest from Iowa, as Air Force Chaplain. These two Fathers grasped the situation immediately and the wires began to hum.

Chaplains of all faiths began to arrive, and more were promised. Several other missionaries were invited to become Contract Chaplains, until their missions were freed of the Japanese and they could return to their people. Every airbase had a chaplain by summer of 1944 and the men in almost every post had an opportunity of hearing Mass every week. My period of usefulness was at an end.

With strange tuggings at the heart I parted from the friends of the past months and the scenes of one of the most interesting phases of my life.

Back at mission duty I no longer had a jeep in which to get around, but the community motorcycle was a good, if solitary, substitute. Life was quieter; the Mass kit was packed only on Sundays when I went to say Mass for the boys.

—THE END

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# He Fears We Underrate China

*This is the last of three articles on life and conditions in Burma, reprinted with permission from the Fort Worth, Texas, Star-Telegram. It was written by a young man who is in Burma on a Fulbright scholarship to study the Burmese political parties. The government of the 11-year-old Southeast Asian republic, nearly as large as Texas in area, was taken over last September by the military "to preserve order and political stability."*

BY LEE S. BIGELOW

RANGOON, Burma.—The feeling I have after six months in Burma, which lies in the path of the almost inexorable southward movement of Red China, is that Americans are terribly underestimating China, much as they once underestimated Japan, Germany and Russia.

The propaganda the Chinese put out with pictures of factories can not all be sham, especially considering the amount and quality of Chinese goods on the market in Burma. This development they have already made, coupled with the Chinese ability to work incessantly, the exploding population situation in China, the inexperience of their leaders and our head-in-the-sand attitude all make me fearful.

The stretch from Muse to Namkham, about 20 miles, was the most heavily populated and intensively cultivated farm land I have seen in Burma. This showed that many had come across the border. The people on both sides of the border are Shans, so those that come across are indistinguishable from the Burma Shans. These simple farmers do not know the difference between the ideologies of the two countries. They only know that life is being made increasingly difficult on the north side of the river so they pack their families and goods on a little boat at night and come across.

\* \* \*

At Namkham I met Dr. Gordon Seagrave, an American doctor who has spent his whole life building up a hospital and treating the needs of the people there, who would otherwise have practically no medical help at all—like the two Shan children I met earlier. Dr. Seagrave has written three books about his experiences.

Also at Namkham I took a ride up to see some hill villages. It was bazaar day, and a truck was taking people back. It was piled high with people and baskets. They gave me the honor seat next to the driver, and we set off, or rather, up. The truck was an old U. S. Army vehicle and

luckily had four-wheel drive. We crawled up the road. We went five miles but it took us an hour and a half to do it. It was that steep. Every once in a while we came to a village and a few people got off. The people were quite friendly to me. Maybe this was illusion, but it seemed to me that the people in the truck felt freer when they got up into the hills, seemed to laugh and smile more. The valley was a strange place, but these hills were their home.

It was at this village that I had the most picturesque view of the whole trip. Away down below was Namkram and the Shweli River, and most likely some of the hills on the other side were in China. I met the father of the driver, who lived in this village, watched some girls grinding the husks off rice with an ingenious grinder made out of bamboo, and then we started down.

\* \* \*

There are many things I have not touched upon—the pagodas in each village and on many hilltops; the different peoples of Burma; the insurrection which is not over yet after 10 years and the resulting insecurity for a lot of the village population; the good and bad things about the British administration, the long-range prospects for democracy.

One thing that has impressed me very much this year is that the eyes of the world are on America. University students here know the words to American popular songs that I have not even heard of. Children proudly show that they have mastered the hula hoop. Every once in a while you see a group of little Elvis Presleys with peg pants, long hair and upturned shirt collars. Time Magazine and Readers Digest have a good circulation among those who read English. These people know who Governor Faubus is, and the prospects for the Democrats to win in 1960.

This all brings a sobering realization. First, we must live up to our ideals or others will see us as hypocrites and turn away from our leadership. Second, we must learn much, much more about the countries over on this side of the world—their peoples, customs, governments, problems and attitudes. We are in a position to help these countries a great deal. But we must give them the kind of help they want. The first step is to get acquainted, even if it has to be done at long distance. It might even be that they have a few things to teach us.

# Book Reviews



Edited by BOYD SINCLAIR

**THE MANIPUR ROAD.** By Dewar McLintock. 158 pages. Associated Booksellers, Westport, Connecticut, 1959. 35c.

This is a story of the Mandalay campaign by the British Army in our China-Burma-India war. The book recounts the experiences of a British officer who fought in the campaign.

**THE HARMLESS PEOPLE.** By Elizabeth Thomas. 226 pages. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1959. \$4.75.

A detailed, sympathetic, and sensitive description of the African Bushman's culture. It covers family life, social structure, religion, music, and other aspects of the society. A devoted work on an admirable people.

**ELEPHANTS.** By Richard Carrington. 272 pages. Basic Books, New York, 1959. \$5.00.

A delightful account of the Indian and African elephant by an English naturalist and writer. He deals with the ancestors of the elephant, historical significance, and influence on man's religion, art, and social and economic life.

**THE MOUNTAINS OF RASSELAS.** By Thomas Pakenham. 192 pages. Reynal and Company, New York, 1959. \$4.00.

The story of a young Oxford graduate's trip to Ethiopia. The cities fade into the background as the writer hikes and rides a mule into the back country. A wonderful account of village and country life in a primitive society.

**THE REBEL EMPEROR.** By Lary Anderson. 352 pages. Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, 1959. \$4.95.

The life and times of Hung, an extraordinary Chinese peasant boy who believes himself to be the younger brother of Jesus. By an astounding turn of fate, he became emperor of Central China.

**COMMAND THE MORNING.** By Pearl Buck. 317 pages. The John Day Company, New York, 1959. \$4.50.

A novel about the moral problems created by man's harnessing of the atom. This novel deals with the making and the dropping of the bomb. The heroine thinks it's too terrible to be used, but the hero thinks it's a necessary evil.

**ONE STAR GENERAL.** By Albert Morgan. 270 pages. Rinehart and Company, New York, 1959. \$3.50.

Novel of a heel who becomes a hero. Brigadier General "Bronco" Bronson gets his star by a sort of military blackmail, then deserves it later when he becomes the savior of Korea. Climactic, readable, a surprising end.

**A PEARL TO INDIA.** By Vincent Cronin. 297 pages. E. P. Dutton and Company, New York, 1959. \$4.50.

Unpublished manuscripts are the principal source for this biography of Roberto de Nobili, the first missionary to establish Christianity in the interior of India. He was a Jesuit who lived from 1577 to 1656.

**TIGER IN THE SKY.** By Robert L. Scott Jr. 142 pages. Ballantine Books, New York, 1959. 35c.

The former Fourteenth Air Force fighter pilot, author of the recent biography of the late General Claire Chennault, writes of personal adventures, exploring, and flying over a period of thirty years. Paper-back.

**THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE.** By Richard Condon. 311 pages. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1959. \$4.50.

Sergeant Raymond Shaw returns from Korea a hero and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. No one suspects that he is a traitor to the Communists and is prepared to engage in espionage activities. Thriller-type novel.

**THE INEFFECTIVE SOLDIER.** By Eli Ginzberg. 905 pages. 3 volumes. Columbia University Press, New York, 1959. \$18.00.

Statistical information and analysis of Army and Selective Service records of men in World War II rejected for or separated from the service for inaptitude, personality defects, or psychoneurosis. 75 case histories.

**THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN PAVILION.** By Yukio Mishima. 262 pages. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1959. \$4.00.

Novel of a young Buddhist acolyte, fascinating and esthetic, which tells the strange story of how he, obsessed with the beauty of the temple, grows to hate it. Based on the actual burning of an ancient temple in Kyoto in 1950 by a crazed monk.

**NEHRU AND DEMOCRACY.** By Donald Smith. 194 pages. Longmans, Green and Company, New York, 1959. \$5.25.

Attempts to synthesize the Indian prime minister's ideas on democracy in respect to fundamental human rights, economic development, and India as a secular state. The author is a professor of political science at Rhode Island.

# CBI-er's Viewpoint

This month's question:

**What is your guess as to the final disposition of Nationalist vs. Communist China?**

**KEITH I. LEONARD**, Hartford, Conn.—"I believe the situation between Chiang and Mao will continue as it is now: stalemate. Red China will periodically challenge the Formosans, and Chiang will continue to bide his time."

**ENNIS KINGMAN**, Sun Valley, Idaho—"My opinion is that Chiang Kai-shek could successfully invade Red China right now if we would back him up, which is not about to happen. China's people on the mainland would be delighted for an opportunity to revolt against Communism if they thought they had any chance to survive such an uprising."

**JOHN A. HOUVAN**, Elmhurst, Ill.—"The unsteady and shaky situation in the Far East will probably exist until such time as we are able to ally with Nationalist China. If the United States went to war with Russia, Red China would then attempt to invade and take over Formosa. At that time we would probably render all-out aid to the Nationalists in order to gain a "back entrance" to Russia."

**CHARLES CARPENTER**, Salt Lake City, Utah—"I don't think anything will ever change between the status of Formosa and the mainland. They will harass each other over the years until something occurs to unite the offshore islands with the rest of China."

**ARTHUR L. JACQUES**, Custer, S. D.—"It has my stand all along that Chiang is waiting only for a general revolution on the mainland to invade the continent. If and when he does, I think the people will go all out to his aid."

**MAX VANDERWILLEN**, Buffalo, N. Y.—"After 13 years, it's hard to say. Had we backed up the Nationalists in 1946, right after World War II, the Communists would never have gained control of the Chinese mainland. Too bad we can't turn back the years and do it over."

**CHARLES H. WAGNER**, Sioux City, Iowa—"It would seem to me that there will be no 'final disposition' for many years. This is another phase of the 'cold war' and will probably continue for some time to come."

Question for October issue:

**What are your suggestions as to further questions which may be asked in "CBI-er's Viewpoint" during the months ahead?**

Send your reply to the above question to the Roundup editors for inclusion in the next issue.

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# CBI DATELINE

News dispatches from recent issues of  
*The Calcutta Statesman*

**CALCUTTA**—The West Bengal Government has sanctioned schemes for the construction of two multi-storeyed tenement houses, one at Tiljala and the other at Cossipore, to re-house people who will be displaced from Calcutta bustees under the Slum Clearance Act. Each building will have 4,000 tenements.

**NEW DELHI**—A rocket society has been formed here by 10 young technicians and technological research students with a view to evoking popular interest in rocketry and sponsoring small-scale experiments in it.

**DACCA**—Establishment of an Indo-Pakistani commission to plan the distribution of the waters of the Ganga and Brahmaputra to the maximum advantage of the eastern subcontinent is strongly advocated by Khan Mohammed Azam, Chairman of the East Pakistan Water and Power Development Board. He pointed out that these two river systems were of primary importance to the economic well-being of this part of the subcontinent, and it was only through such a joint commission that the maximum advantage of the two rivers could be obtained by both India and Pakistan.

**NEW DELHI**—While it has advanced with considerable earnestness Hindi's claim to replace English as India's official language, the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language has expressed the opinion that it may not be practicable to bring about a complete changeover by 1965. The Committee's report, recently presented to Parliament, suggests that after 1965, when Hindi becomes "the principal official language," English should be used as a "subsidiary official language for purposes to be specified by Parliament" and for as long as is necessary.

**NEW DELHI**—While its present attitude on the issue is somewhat "neutral," the Government may soon accept voluntary sterilization as an important part of the official programme to control the country's population.

**NEW DELHI**—An institute for training in yoga, first of its kind, will be set up at Katra, near Jammu, at a cost of Rs 10 lakhs.

**NEW DELHI**—While there is some shortage of tyres, even for trucks and buses, the transport authorities are examining the desirability of encouraging use of pneumatic tyres by bullock carts. The number of bullock carts in the country is estimated at 10 million, but presumably only those carts which ply on pucca roads are proposed to be encouraged to give up the traditional wooden wheels and take to rubber tyres.

**MUSSOORIE**—An official in the Dalai Lama's camp said some people tried to shake hands with the Dalai Lama during a recent audience. This is a very wrong practice. The Dalai Lama never shakes hands with anyone according to Tibetan custom. People are, therefore, advised to bow in reverence or offer their respects with folded hands and should not try to shake hands with him. The Dalai Lama extends his right hand to touch the face of a person seeking his blessings.

**CALCUTTA**—The increasing number of fires in jute godowns in and around Calcutta poses a serious problem for the industry. There have so far been 20 outbreaks this year against 44 in 1958 and 40 the year before. Fires in jute godowns have been more numerous since 1956. Fragments of fuses and matches have been found by the police after outbreaks in many cases. All these point to determined and deliberate efforts to start them.

**CALCUTTA**—Though malaria is fast becoming a thing of the past in West Bengal, there is no sign of the state's mosquito population diminishing. A Community Development Project officer who tours rural areas extensively said villagers strongly believe that mosquitos are becoming harmless.

**KATHMANDU**—The Soviet Union has joined the U. S. A., India and People's China as a major aid donor for Nepal's economic development. Russia agreed to give Nepal "free of charge economic and technical assistance" amounting to 30 million roubles. This amount will go toward the construction of a hydro-electric power plant, a sugar factory, a tobacco factory with a diesel power plant, and for carrying out the survey of an east-west road in Kathmandu.

**OOTACAMUND**—It was reported in the Madras Assembly that the State Government has decided to introduce universal compulsory primary education for all children of the age-group six to 11 years by 1966-67.

**HYDERABAD**—A training centre for gliding is to be set up in Hyderabad.



SHIPPING ORDERS just came out on the bulletin board when this World War II picture was taken at Karachi. Photo by William F. Moerk.

Purity of Water

• Here is one of the strange things I heard about in India; I was told by members of the medical department while I was stationed in India from November 1943 to July 1945 that the water from the Hooghly and Ganges Rivers was 100 per cent pure. This is amazing since many dead bodies and other material enter it. The medics claimed they analyzed the water quite often and found it so. Possibly you have some additional light on the subject, or perhaps some other friend can help. I personally have often doubted it, but perhaps it may be only another of the very strange things of India.

RALPH KRELL,  
Chicago, Ill.

Marauders Book

• "The Marauders," a new wonderful book on Merrill's Marauders is on the market and well worth the \$4.50 asking price to anyone who saw service in India, Burma or China. It is a must for men of Merrill's Marauders or Mars Task Force, but excellent reading for all CBI-ers. Charlton Ogburn Jr. is the author. He was a lieutenant with the outfit.

WILLIAM E. SAGER,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Burma Communists

• Enjoyed the article about Fifth Columnists in Burma. I've been keeping an eye on events in Burma the past few years. The Chinese Reds, with an ever-increasing population, have expansion ideas and it's only a matter of time until they take over the smaller countries on their borders. When this happens, Nehru will begin to grasp events to come as concerns India.

HAROLD B. STARK,  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ohio Meeting

• The Ohio State meeting and picnic is to be in Toledo on Sunday, July 12. The boys are coming to Toledo for this family basket picnic, in conjunction with our annual meeting and election of officers, from Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Youngstown, Toledo, and guests from the Motor City Basha in Detroit. We expect a big turnout, and will do our best to see that they enjoy themselves throughout the day and evening. If things go well, I hope to see you in Philadelphia at the big reunion there in August, for I do love to be on hand for the fun and good fellowship so abundant at these reunions.

J. EDWARD STIPES,  
Toledo, Ohio

Col. Virden's Articles

• Always get a kick out of Col. John Virden's articles, such as his Marauders' story in the June issue. His writing style is so picturesque and he has a way to making a dry story intensely interesting.

RAYMOND FRASER,  
Dayton, Ohio

14th Air Force

• The 12th annual convention of the 14th Air Force Association will be held Aug. 6, 7 and 8 at the Americus Hotel, Allentown, Pa. Since this is in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, plans call for a Pennsylvania Dutch "clambake," a big smorgasbord, etc. Another Chennault Memorial Scholarship will be awarded. Sightseeing trips and various types of entertainment are scheduled for this annual get-together.

JOHN CANNON,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Back Issues!

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THE ROUNDUP

P. O. Box 188  
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EX-CBI ROUNDUP



SHOP offering "jing bao juice" at Luichow, China, carried the impressive name of Allied Wine Co. Photo by Clinton Staples.

**Sutton Retires**

• An Air Force Commendation Medal was awarded recently at Buffalo, N. Y., to Col J. LeRoy Sutton, following his retirement as deputy commander of the 9060th Air Reserve Group. The award was for his leadership in the air reserve program in Western New York since World War II. Colonel Sutton served in the CBI Theater during the war, being first assigned to ATC at Kunming where he was group assistant engineering and operations officer. From November 1943 to August 1944 he was station commander at Yunan Yi, and it was during this time that he was promoted to major. Later he served at ATC division headquarters in Calcutta; as Headquarters Squadron commander at Sookerating, Assam; as air base commander at Dergaon,

Assam; and as air base commander at Bombay. He became a lieutenant colonel in May 1946 and was promoted to colonel in February 1955.

GEORGE MATTONS,  
New York, N. Y.

JAMES C. WRIGHT,  
P. O. Box 285  
Odessa, Texas

**The Sentimentalists**

• Enjoyed the item by Glenn C. Hess (May issue) about the sentimentalists being sent to CBI. I believe he has the right answer.

ALFRED C. MARTIN,  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Looking for Films**

• We have a group of pilots here that have private certificates and are sadly lacking in training in regard to showing the proper respect for weather. As a matter of fact, we have had two crashes in the last 90 days with a resultant loss of five lives. I am a former Flight Officer Pilot of the old 1348th A.A.F.B.U., Myitkyina, Burma, and am still active in flying. I have a 16 MM sound projector and would like to show some training films to our local pilots to see if I can't be of some help in preventing further tragic accidents of this type. Can you advise me the proper people to contact to secure old Air Force training films? Also, I would like very much to get some films that were made in the CBI and particularly of the Hump or Air Force installations.



A REAL BATH is sometimes a luxury, and these men at Luichow, China, are enjoying the modern facilities. Photo by Clinton Staples.



## Commander's Message

by

**Robert W. Doucette**

National Commander  
China-Burma-India  
Veterans Assn.

Salaam Sahibs:

The May executive board meeting of the CBIVA was most eventful. The National executive committee adopted a CBI bronze plaque to be given in honor of all CBI vets to the National Museum at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Presentation will be made at the time of the National Reunion in Philadelphia.

A new national CBIVA flag was adopted and will be on display at the national convention in August. Committees were appointed to report to the membership at large on feasibility of adopting and publishing a membership book, a set procedure for the organization of bashas, and the possibility of starting a voluntary fund with the CBIVA sponsorship of a grant to Private Enterprise, Inc. an organization formed to promote individual enterprise by people of various countries. India has been one of the countries chosen for support of private endeavors by the people of India.

The National CBIVA and the local bashas had the pleasure during the past month of greeting and meeting with Colonel Gregory (Pappy) Boyington, USMC (retired) who has been touring the United States promoting his new book "Baa Baa Blacksheep." The former Marine fighter pilot, who knocked 28 Japanese planes from the air, visited with basha members of the Houston Basha, Philadelphia Basha, St. Louis Basha, Seattle, Washington Basha, and was honored at a big affair by the San Francisco Basha on June 13. Pappy Boyington has indicated to Lee Bakker, Basha Commander of the Washington State Dhobi Wallah Basha at Seattle, Washington that he would try to make the National Convention in Philadelphia. We sincerely hope we will find him among the list of distinguished guests at our National Convention.

This is my last commander's message for my term of office. As I look back over this eventful year of my life, I realize how wonderful it is to be part of the American way of life. I have traveled

north, south, east, and west and the people are always the same—just great. When I took office I said that I was going to visit as many bashas as possible—I only regret that I was not able to visit all of them.

I have attempted to answer every letter written to me and I have sincerely appreciated the expression of ideas by all the members. As I have said frequently, an organization is only as good as the interest expressed by its members. I have answered over four hundred letters and traveled several thousand miles and I have enjoyed every minute of my work with CBIVA. I don't think a National Commander could have asked for better co-operation and effort than was given to me by the national officers, past national commanders, basha commanders, convention committee, and members at large. To those people should go any credit for the advancement and progress of CBIVA during my term as national commander. In this group, the CBIVA has some excellent talent for leadership in the future.

There is one special request that I have to make in my last commander's message. I earnestly hope that in the immediate future all the various organizations of the CBI theater will meet in one great CBI reunion each year. At last count there are approximately eight CBI organizations that still hold national conventions or reunions. If the individual organizations desire to keep their individuality as to organization, fine and good. But let's get together and congregate in one town each year and really hold a combined CBI reunion. Why not try it in 1960 or 1961 and then get the reaction of the various organizations.

My thanks for giving me the privilege of serving as the National CBIVA Commander and for bearing with me during this past year. Thanks to Neil Maurer and EX-CBI ROUNDUP who contributed so much to the success of CBIVA. And last but certainly not least—see you all in Philadelphia at the largest and best reunion ever—August 5, 6, 7, 8 at the Sheraton Hotel.

ROBERT W. DOUCETTE,  
National Commander

*This space is contributed to the CBIVA by Ex-CBI Roundup as a service to the many readers who are members of the Assn., of which Roundup is the official publication. It is important to remember that CBIVA and Roundup are entirely separate organizations. Your subscription to Roundup does not entitle you to membership in CBIVA, nor does your membership in CBIVA entitle you to a subscription to Roundup. You need not be a member of CBIVA in order to subscribe to Roundup and vice versa.—Eds.*



JAPS are shown moving out of Hangchow, China, after the surrender in 1945. Photo by Clinton Staples.

**Collects Cars**

• Col. George Felton, 61, of Hingham, Mass., who served in CBI during World War II, was featured recently in the Boston Daily Globe as a collector of sports and racing cars, plus some antique vehicles. He is the retired owner of Norfolk Paint Co., and gave up competitive race-car driving only last year. Colonel Felton organized America's first antique auto show in 1948, and has served as vice president of the Sports Car Club of America. Among his memories of CBI are tiger hunts with the Maharajah of Mysore, and he has a full-length portrait of the Hindu chieftain which he received as a gift in 1948.

ARTHUR C. VINSON,  
Boston, Mass.

**Present in Convoy**

• Served with the 529th Fighter Squadron, 311th Group, at Dinjan, India, and later joined them in China at Chengtu and Sian. Also was present in the convoy that Colonel Virden described from Oran, Africa, that met such ill fate. Have met many old buddies and would appreciate hearing from others.

FRED M. ELKIN JR.,  
Lexington, N. C.

**TV Commentator**

• Thought you might be interested in the fact that Norman Ross, a TV commentator in Chicago, was in the CBI. He was in Calcutta at Camp Maidan, just across the street from Firpo's. Mr. Ross has a program called V.I.P. (Very Important Persons).

LEROY W. HASSE,  
Joliet, Ill.

**1007th Engineers**

• Have enjoyed your magazine for many years. Would like to hear from the fellows of the 1007th Special Service Engineers.

DON FORD,  
10815 Bonavista Lane  
Whitier, Calif.

**Keep It Up**

• Keep up the good work on Ex-CBI Roundup. It's really a wonderful publication.

MARY E. WINKLE,  
Albuquerque, N. M.

**Has Every Copy**

• Have every copy of Roundup which I have received up to date, and would hate to part with any of them.

GROVER H. CAMPBELL,  
Maysville, Mo.

**Major Milligan Passes**

• Sorry to learn of the death of Major Arthur Milligan Jr., who served as Chief of Special Services for the India-Burma Theater. Art was well-liked by everyone who knew him and it goes without saying he did a superb job at his assignment.

JOE W. STEVENS,  
Louisville, Ky.

**CBI Veteran Dies**

• Edwin O. Peck, who owned and operated Peck Floor Service in Kalamazoo, died May 9. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the Army Air Transport Command in the CBI Theater. He is survived by his wife, two children, his mother, four grandchildren and other relatives.

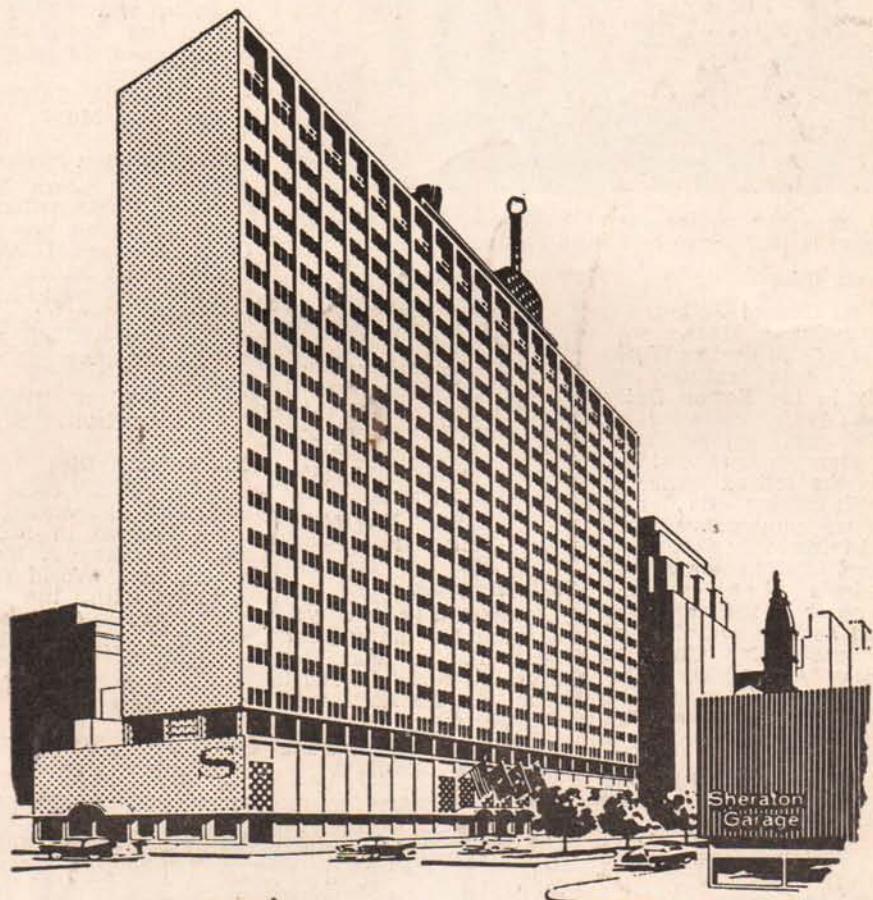
MRS. FRANCES PEACOCK  
Kalamazoo, Mich.



SIGN at the entrance to Karachi Air Base gave name of 1306 AAC Base Unit, India Wing, India-China Division, Air Transport Command. Photo by William F. Moerk.

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